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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Resumed thirty-second session
31 August-18 September 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Programme 45. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

1. At its 35th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 11 and 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 45 (Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 45)).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the general thrust of the revisions to programme 45. A number of delegations were of the view that the commitments made by the African countries towards African economic recovery and development contained in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not adequately reflected in the programme narrative. One delegation suggested that the economic progress achieved so far by several African countries should also be mentioned in the programme narrative.

3. A number of delegations raised questions about the establishment, functioning and funding of the high-level consultative group referred to in paragraph 45.10.

4. A number of delegations were of the view that the revisions proposed under paragraph 45.11 did not reflect the current situation and that the paragraph should be revised further.

5. A number of delegations suggested that the text of existing subparagraph (e) of paragraph 45.22 should be retained. One delegation suggested that the text of paragraph 45.22 should be revised further to reflect the provisions of the New Agenda.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 45.7: Add the following at the end of the paragraph: "The above broad objectives of the programme have their counterpart in the renewed responsibility and commitment entered into in the New Agenda by Africa, the overall goal of which is to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development. In particular, African countries have committed themselves to:

(i) Implementation of economic policies aimed at the transformation of the structure of their economies;

(ii) Achievement of effective regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration by establishing the African Economic Community, promoting sectoral integration of economies and developing and maintaining reliable networks of agricultural, physical, industrial and institutional infrastructures;

(iii) Intensification of the democratization process, full participation of people in development, respect of human rights and good governance;

(iv) Creation of an enabling environment that attracts foreign and domestic direct investment;

(v) Pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies to achieve food security;

(vi) Intensification of efforts in human resources development and capacity-building and deliberate and systematic integration of population factors into the development process;

(vii) Pursuit of action to arrest environmental degradation and enhance the scientific and technological capacities of the continent";

(b) Paragraph 45.10: Add the following at the end of the proposed new paragraph: "Responding to a recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session, the Secretary-General has also established, within the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, a separate and identifiable unit on Africa, headed by a Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. This unit is the focal point on issues related to African economic recovery and development and, in particular, the implementation of the New Agenda. It will also have the specific task of servicing the high-level consultative group";

(c) Paragraph 45.11: At the end of the paragraph add the following sentence: "These measures taken to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 should be strengthened to facilitate coordination and implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s";

(d) Paragraph 45.20: Replace the text of the proposed new subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (d) with the following: "To undertake a study on the need for and the feasibility of establishing a diversification fund for Africa's commodities and to promote an agreement on this issue";

(e) New paragraph 45.26: Delete new paragraph 45.26 proposed for insertion after existing paragraph 45.25.

7. The Committee recommended that the recommendations of the high-level consultative group should be communicated to Member States for consultation before they were made public.